

Eifel Times

Vol. 40, Issue 35

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

www.spangdahlem.af.mil

Sept. 22, 2006

News Briefs

Safety, wellness day

The wing commander will host a safety and wellness day Oct. 3, with a morning briefing to include RESCON and suicide issues. Check the Sept. 29 issue of the *Eifel Times* for times, location and further details.

Electronic visa applications

Beginning Oct. 1, all applicants for U.S. non-immigrant visas are required to submit an electronic visa form. The form can be filled out on-line at <http://evisaforms.state.gov>. For details, visit the U.S. Embassy in Berlin's Web site <http://www.usembassy.de/germany/visa>.

Tax center hours

Walk-in hours at the Spangdahlem AB Tax Center are no longer available. All tax-related issues will be handled by appointment only. Call the legal office at 452-6796 for details.

Family dental care

Orthodontic care is a commonly requested service overseas and is strictly controlled. Referrals to the USAFE orthodontic departments are made as follows: people who transfer in with active orthodontic appliances place first priority; non-active duty patients must have been fully banded prior to the sponsor's notification of assignment; and orthodontic care cannot be cosmetic. For details, visit www.tricare.osd.mil/dentalbrochure/index.cfm.

Wing training day

The next wing training day is Oct. 3. Base agencies and offices are closed for training. People in need of urgent medical care should go to the Bitburg Annex Emergency Room.

Share-A-Ride

The Share-A-Ride Program provides an alternative means of transportation for Sabers and family members who commute between Spangdahlem AB, Bitburg Annex and the government-leased housing areas.

AF Ball emcee auditions

The Air Force Ball planning committee needs an emcee for the Oct. 28 event. All ranks are welcome to apply; people can audition alone or in pairs; and people who recently returned from a deployment are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is Oct. 6. Auditions are Oct. 13. For details, call Capt. Nekitha Little at 452-6524.

Helping others

Read "Thousands wait in line for healthcare services; USAFE medical personnel administer aid to 3,200 Ghanaians" on Page 2.



RESCON

DELTA

4+ DUIs/ARIs in the Last 30 Days

Days since last DUI/ARI: 7

Rank of last DUI/ARI: airman first class

Squadrons of last DUI/ARI:

52nd Civil Engineer Squadron

247 Airmen's lives were saved by the Airmen

Against Drunk Driving Program since

Jan. 1, 2006. When going out and your plan falls through call AADD for a ride, at 06565-61-2233.

F-16 crashes near Oberkail

By Louis A. Arana-Barradas

Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO -- The F-16 *Fighting Falcon* that crashed near Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, had a landing gear problem that forced its pilot to do a controlled crash landing.

Col. Darryl Roberson, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, held a press conference Sept. 16 near the cordoned-off crash site to give an update on the Sept. 14 incident.

The pilot, 1st Lt. Trevor Merrell, 28, of the 22nd Fighter Squadron, could not resolve the gear problem and had to bail out of the fighter, the colonel said. He had to crash land his jet.

"It was a controlled bailout in that the pilot had an opportunity to prepare for the ejection," the colonel said. "That's exactly why it ended up in the middle of a field and did not impact any buildings or hurt any people."

The lieutenant, of Mountain Green, Utah, was on a training mission. He flew the jet to the field near the town of Oberkail, which is about 3.5 miles north of the fighter base. The region, known as the Eifel, has many rolling hills and wooded areas and is dotted with small towns and villages.

"Those are the facts that we know," Colonel Roberson said. "What caused it, how it happened -- we don't know. The safety investigation board will figure that out."

Colonel Roberson did acknowledge to a German reporter that Oberkail had been at risk during the situation.

"That's a natural concern and we worry about that, too," said the colonel, who took command of the F-16 and A-10 *Thunderbolt II* fighter wing in June.

He said Germany has many small communities and that the country has few areas that are "clear of everything." But the Air Force does its best to analyze the region to determine the best places where aircraft can do these kinds of landings, he said.

"And in this case, it was a controlled flight so we could end up here, in the middle of a clear field," he said.

It took base and German first-responders just 20 minutes to reach the crash site. By then, most of the fuel and other fluids on the aircraft had burned in the fireball created by the crash, the



Photo by Senior Airman Eydie Sakura

A 22nd Fighter Squadron F-16 *Fighting Falcon*, similar to the one that crashed more than three miles from base, soars over the Eifel to practice air-to-air refueling in July 2004.

colonel said. Emergency crews also recovered the bottle of volatile hydrazine aboard the jet.

Colonel Roberson, who is a command pilot with more than 4,200 flying hours -- 366 in combat -- in the F-4 *Phantom*, F-15 *Eagle* and the F-16, said the cooperation between base and local officials during the crash investigation has been nothing short of spectacular.

The good working relationship between the base and local community "represents a cornerstone of the success of being able to deal with this crash," the colonel said.

Air Force and German officials will continue to work to secure the evidence at the crash site. Air Force and German security forces are also maintaining security at the crash site, which has a 5,000-foot cordoned off area, to maintain evidence. The colonel said it could take a while to collect all the debris.

In the meantime, the accident investigation board, comprised of Airmen from bases throughout Europe, arrived at the base Sept. 16. But it will be weeks before the board releases the cause of the mishap.

"It's unfortunate that this situation had to happen," Colonel Roberson said. "But given the circumstances, it worked out as best as we could have hoped for."

Read more about the base's recovery efforts on Page 2.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

Live fire training on base

(Left to right) Senior Airmen William Kretsch and Zachary Hedquist, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron fire fighters, work to contain a fire during a live fire training exercise, Sept. 10. The Spangdahlem Air Base Fire Department 1 fire fighters are practicing their skills in a Bitburg Annex building that is scheduled for demolition. Read "Training to save lives" on Page 4.

On-scene officials conduct 24-hour recovery ops



German military policeman Christopher Eich, an augmentee to the 52nd Security Forces Squadron, listens to his radio while helping secure the cordon around the F-16 accident site near Spangdahlem Air Base Thursday.

Story and photos by Capt. Diane Weed
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

More than 60 Airmen, Polizei (German police) and Bundeswehr (German military) worked long hours at the scene of the F-16 crash about 3.5 miles from Spangdahlem Air Base.

Base Airmen and the German officials have been working alongside since the crash occurred Thursday afternoon.

The site needed to be secured, the perimeter controlled and the personnel sheltered for the duration of the night shift.

On-scene personnel took care of the first two, and the 606th Air Control Squadron took care of the people.

Lt. Col. Askew, 606th ACS Commander, approached the wing commander after hearing about the accident and offered, "Whatever you need, I'll provide."

And they did. About 30 members of the 606th ACS responded to the call.

"We had to turn people away because we had more volunteers than we had transportation at the time," said Master Sgt. Sheldon Sukut, 606th ACS Combat Readiness Flight chief. "And out (on scene), they're tracking me down asking, 'What else do you need?' looking to get everything operational as soon as possible."

Wing leadership witnessed the teamwork first-hand and agreed that taking care of each other was first and foremost on the minds of the Saber community.

"I'm impressed with the professional way everyone reacted," said Col. Darryl Roberson, 52nd Fighter Wing commander. "It's never easy, but it's been completely on target. Everyone knew what the mission was and what job needed to be done."



(Top) Tech. Sgt. James Trietch, 606th Air Control Squadron, operates a 10,000 pound all-terrain forklift to help move generators and environmental control units on the scene of an F-16 accident Thursday.



(Left) Senior Airman Jacob Davies, 606th ACS, helps assemble cots for the sleeping tents at the crash site Thursday. The cots were used by shift workers on scene -- allowing them a place to rest whenever they had some free time during the night.

Med Flag 2006: Thousands wait in line for healthcare services; USAFE medical personnel administer aid to 3,200 Ghanaians

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Pamela Anderson
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

In four short days, medical personnel from Spangdahlem and Ramstein Air Bases made a difference in the lives of more than 3,200 Ghanaians.

The Airmen were deployed to the West African city of Tamale for Med Flag 2006 and manned two clinics; one was located at Bilpeila, in the heart of Tamale, and the other in the village Tampiong.

Med Flag 2006 was a 14-day exercise involving U.S. Air Forces in Europe staging medical operations in the countries of Benin, Senegal, Nigeria, and Ghana.

In an area where standard medical care is scarce, thousands of people waited in lines for days for the chance to see the U.S. military doctors and though not everyone was able to be seen, people who were seen were grateful for the chance.

"I have never seen an American in Ghana before, until now," said Abulsari Rafakat, who waited in line all day Sept. 12 before being seen Sept. 13. "I'm feeling good to see them come. I wish they would be here all the time."

The fact that they have made a difference to so many people is not lost on the people who have been treating the Ghanaians.

"It's probably the best thing I've ever done, just to be able touch so many lives," said Senior Airman Holly Klug, an optometry technician from the 435th Medical Group. "Watching the reaction on their faces when they could see was the best part."

Maj. (Dr.) Shane Dieckman is also glad to be part of Med Flag 2006, but has mixed feelings about what he's doing.



Lt. Col. (Dr.) Bret Burton, 52nd Medical Group pediatrician, gives Amena Mashura, 9, some medicine to help treat her malaria at the Bilpeila Clinic in Tamale, Ghana, Sept. 15. Colonel Burton was one of more than 50 U.S. Air Forces in Europe personnel from Spangdahlem, Ramstein and Sembach Air Bases in Germany, deployed to the West African city for Med Flag 2006 last week.

"I'm proud to represent our country and our military, but it's hard to see the unfortunate circumstances they live in," he said. "They are desperate for healthcare so it's good to be able to give a helping hand."

That help is also appreciated by the Ghanaian health care providers who treat those patients on a regular basis.

"We are happy that they showed up to help," said Sanatu Ahassan, a Ghanaian disease control officer. "They are all hard working and have helped a lot of people. I have learned so much from them, especially how to interact with patients. We will miss (the Americans) a lot."

During their short stay, the medics made a difference, though it is only the beginning, said Col. (Dr.) Victor Folarin, 52nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander and Med Flag 2006 commander.

"You reach out to touch people only to realize that we cannot do everything," he said. "This is one brick laid in the building of a community."

Colonel Folarin said the deployment will leave a lasting impression on the Ghanaians and he credits his personnel for that.

"I was blessed to have the Dream Team," he said. "They deserved the best and they got the best."



Hopeful Ghanaians wait in line to be seen at the Bipeila Clinic, in Tamale, Ghana, Sept. 15.

The U.S. Ambassador to Ghana, Pamela Bridgewater, visited both the Bilpeila and Tampiong Clinics and agreed with Colonel Folarin.

"I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of gratitude, by the long, patient lines of people waiting for assessment and medical, dental and optometry treatment, and by the enthusiasm demonstrated by the USAFE forces from the 52nd Medical and 86th Support Groups," she said. "The outreach was a win-win and I was never more proud of being an American than when I saw USAFE forces in action."

More than 50 medical, support and security personnel deployed from Spangdahlem, Ramstein and Sembach Air Bases in Germany, worked along-side their Ghanaian military counterparts at the clinics, treated patients and learned about regional diseases and approaches to treatment from each other.

Specialties represented include Family Practice, Pediatrics, Dentistry and Optometry.



Courtesy photo

Top Saber Performer

Name: Airman 1st Class Kimberly Valenzuela
Unit: 52nd Contracting Squadron
Duty Title: Contracting Specialist
Hometown: San Antonio, Texas
Years in Service: One year
Nominees Contributions to 52nd Fighter Wing Mission Success: As a contracting specialist, Airman Valenzuela has an astounding impact on the wing's achievements. She has administered and awarded more than \$9 million worth in contracts during fiscal year 2006 -- assuming and managing the workload of a staff sergeant. Airman Valenzuela worked on both services and construction contracts that are vital to the Air Force's quality of life. She was chosen to attend the U.S. Air

Force in Europe's Silver Flag deployment exercise, and she exceeded standards by scoring a 95 on her career development course test, the highest score in the squadron. She is a remarkably motivated Airman who strives to encourage and motivate others everyday.

Off Duty Volunteerism and Professional Development Pursuits: Airman Valenzuela is Just Airman! council president; Booster Club Treasurer; squadron physical training leader; and multi-cultural awareness committee member. She is also a member of the base honor guard. Airman Valenzuela is actively pursuing a slot in the Airmen Education and Commissioning Program, while attending college classes to complete the last six hours of her Associates Degree with the Community College of the Air Force. Airman Valenzuela is currently learning German and Italian languages as well.

What do you do for fun? I enjoy traveling, cooking, dancing and going to the movies.

What do you like most about being stationed here? It is close to so many great places to visit.

One thing I would like to change or improve at Spangdahlem is: I would definitely like to see a Starbucks Coffee at Spangdahlem. I also wish that the Commissary, the BX, and the food establishments could stay open a little later than 8 p.m. during the week.

Eifel Salutes

52nd Maintenance Group

He's got skills ... **Staff Sgt. Rory Hoffman** skillfully assisted technical engineers in the assembly and successful test of one of the wing's A-10 engine hush house test facilities. He aided in the installation of the state-of-the-art digital test cab, making it easier and safer to test TF34-GE-100 engines. His efforts increased the wing's TF34 engine production capability, directly contributing to the war machine.

52nd Medical Group

I'm seeing a double salute for **Senior Airman Michael McElroy** from the optometry flight. He recently graduated from Airman Leadership School and was selected for promotion. They're bringing home Team Eifel and not the bacon! Thanks to the deployment medicine section of the public health flight ... specifically **Staff Sgts. Breah Misho and Lindsay Madernini**, and **Airman Michael Toderick**, for helping re-integrate all the Sabers from their recent redeployments. Kudos to **Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Kratzer** and **Staff Sgt. Sarah Ortega-Russell** who did an excellent job standing up the MCC during a recent no-notice exercise. **Maj. (Dr.) Crystal Hnatko, Capt. Suzanne Green** and **Staff Sgt.**

Christopher Endres held down the fort and showed great teamwork by simultaneously treating multiple real-world patients during the exercise.

52nd Mission Support Group

Keeping everyone happy is just part of the job for the 52nd Contracting Squadron. Congrats to **Master Sgt. Jeffrey Bell**, **Staff Sgt. Jason Frazee** and **Senior Airman Thomas Van Horn** for working hard to make a three-week temporary duty assignment for 275 Airmen to Romania a smooth process.

Outstanding CDC scores

Showing excellence under pressure are **Staff Sgt. Brian O'Neal**, 726th Air Mobility Squadron, and **Airman 1st Class Gregory Gilbert**, 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, who scored more than 90 percent on their Career Development Course exams.

Proud to be an American

Congratulations to **Cigdem Garceau**, spouse of Senior Airman Jarrod Garceau, who recently became an American citizen after two years of paperwork and schooling. We salute you!

Kudos to you all!

(Complied by Senior Airman Eydie Sakura, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office)



Courtesy photo

Top Saber Team

Unit Name: 703rd Munitions Support Squadron, custody flight armory

Brief description of unit responsibilities: Master Sgt. Matthew Schmidt and Tech. Sgt. Shane Warren manage the combat arms training program for U.S. personnel assigned to Volkel Air Base, The Netherlands. As combat arms instructors, they train and certify approximately 140 personnel assigned to the unit on firearms qualifications. They ensure compliance with Air Force guidance pertaining to Protection Level-1 resources. Additionally, they track, coordinate and schedule all M-4, M-9 and M-16A-2 weapons firing and use of force training. The team enforces range safety standards and coordinates range availability with the 1st Fighter Wing, Royal Netherlands Air Force. They provide five diverse flights with weapons maintenance support and ensure periodic weapons and ammunition inspections are accomplished within prescribed time limits. They maintain and update weapons maintenance data, and repair and replace worn and broken weapon parts.

How does the team fit into the 52nd Fighter Wing mission: The arms and equipment section provide exceptional support to the unit by ensuring the armory and \$250,000 in security equipment is in inspection order for both day-to-day and contingency operations. Inspectors with the Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe nuclear surety staff assistance visit praised the team, noting that, "... (their) Inspected weapons and night vision devices stored in the armory were maintained in exceptional condition," during their end of June inspection.

Family reunion

Master Sgt. Gary Gehring hugs daughter Jillian and kisses wife Jennifer after returning from a four-month deployment. Sergeant Gehring, assigned to 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, was deployed in Support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Capt. Diane Weed



The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Capt. Nekitha Little, serves as the single point of contact for integrating and coordinating sexual assault victim care from initial report through disposition and resolution of issues related to the victims' health and well-being. For more information, on the SARC program, call 452-7272, or for an emergency or to report sexual assault, call 452-7272.

Sexual assault by the numbers: One in four women are sexually assaulted; one in three military women are sexually assaulted; 82 percent of sexual assaults are not reported; only 17 percent of all victims seek medical care; and 62 percent tell a friend or family member.

(Information courtesy of the 52nd Fighter Wing Sexual Assault Response Coordinator).

Training to save lives

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Running into a burning building, instead of running out of one, might not sound like an ideal job to most people, but to members of the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Departments, it is something they would voluntarily spend their days off doing.

More than 115 Airmen and Department of Defense civilians from Spangdahlem Air Base and Bitburg Annex conducted live fire training Sept. 6 through Sunday in building 17 on Bitburg.

Building 17 consists of 24 housing units and is scheduled for demolition. The structure is built of mainly concrete and other non-noncombustible material and it served as an ideal training environment.

"It is a good solid structure and we can do several fires in there before it falls down," said Tech. Sgt. Larry Tepen, 52nd CES Fire Department 1 station chief.

The chance to conduct live fire training on this scale is rarely present, so base fire fighters are taking full advantage of this opportunity.

"Many of our Airmen have not seen a fire since technical school," Sergeant Tepen said. "For some of them, this has been as little as a year and a half to as long as ten years, because the Air Force is so good at fire prevention."

Even though technical training provides these Airmen with fire fighting experience, this training has enhanced their skills in different ways.

"The best part of this training was that it was live fire," said Staff Sgt. Jack Snyder, 52nd CES Fire Department 1 fire protection crew chief. "Most bases and even at the fire academy, all fires are fueled by (liquid propane gas). The fire is real but it's controlled because it can be shut off at any time. These fires we were training with were living, breathing things ... and there was no one controlling it."

Sergeant Snyder said it was good to see how fire acts in its natural state when it can build, live and die. Everyone got to feel how hot a fire can really get and see why it is best to stay low to the floor for visibility and to keep cool as well as see how different types of fire attack work on real fire.

"It was good practice to see what we would really see in the real world."

To make the most of this opportunity, the fire fighters took time to study how the fire behaved.

"We have been watching the fires before we put them out so we can learn from them," Sergeant Tepen said. "The team has also been practicing different spray techniques for attacking the fires."

The firemen practiced several combination attacks as well.

"When we do a T, Z or O pattern, we initially start on the ceil-



Airman 1st Class William Kretsch and Senior Airman John Black, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department 1 fire fighters, assemble a hose during a live fire training exercise here.

ing and work our way to the fire and back to the ceiling, Sergeant Snyder said. "This type of attack helps generate steam to smother the fire, cool the room down somewhat and it can be used to hit the fire directly."

This causes a disruption in the thermal layering to create steam that comes down on the fire and begins to smother it. It also hits the fire directly to help put the fire out.

"With this method you are hitting the fire with two ways of extinguishment so to speak," he said.

In addition to using this opportunity to hone base fire fighter's skills the department invited fire departments from nearby German towns of Wittlich, Bitburg, Irrel, and Speicher to participate. German fire departments such as Gilzem, Landscheid, Arenrath, Speicher, Binsfeld, Wolsfeld, Herforst, Dudeldorf and Ohrenhofen, accepted this invitation.

"Conducting this training with German fire fighters is important because there are going to be times where they will be the first department on scene at the geographically separated housing areas and this helps us work together more efficiently as a group and build a rapport," Sergeant Tepen said.

With the live fire training complete Airmen who said they trained have gained a great deal of experience and knowledge.

"To me, the best part of the training was getting all the fire department personnel in an actual live fire situation. It will help to calm the nerves when the real thing happens," said Senior Airman John Black, 52nd CES Fire Department 1 driver opera-



Staff Sgt. Jack Snyder, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron fire fighter, talks to safety observers outside of the building during a live fire training exercise. The training took place in a Bitburg Annex building that is scheduled for demolition.

tor. "It was a good experience for not only me, but everyone who participated. It gave us a lot of useful knowledge for our future training and real world fires."

Sergeant Snyder agreed.

"I have taken away a great experience from this," Sergeant Snyder said. "It was a good reminder of how fast a fire can grow and that we as a department are ready to deal with it at a moments notice. It was also good practice for a lot of these guys who haven't seen a real fire in a while."

Eye see you

Spang, Ramstein AB optometrists bring donated glasses, medical skills to Ghana, Africa

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Pamela Anderson
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Thanks to new technology and help from U.S. Air Forces in Europe medical personnel, some Ghanaians can now see the world in a different light -- with the help of a little liquid and a Phillips screwdriver.

Optometrists from Spangdahlem and Ramstein Air Bases in Germany deployed to Tamale, Ghana, for Med Flag 2006, carrying more than 900 pairs of Adaptive Eyewear, a type of eyeglass that enables the wearer to "fill" their prescription immediately.

"This is good for deployed forces and humanitarian events like (Med Flag)," said Maj. (Dr.) Craig McCluer, 52nd Medical Group optometrist deployed to Ghana. "We usually bring donated glasses to hand out to patients but it's hard to match the prescriptions or fabri-



Maj. (Dr.) Craig McCluer, 52nd Medical Group optometrist, performs an initial assessment on a Ghanaian patient before fitting him with Adaptive Eyewear at the Bipeila Clinic Sept. 12.

cate glasses on the spot, so we do the best we can."

The doctor said that with adaptive eyewear, they can correct the

eyesight of more than 90 percent of the people who need glasses.

Adaptive Eyewear looks like a normal pair of eyeglasses, except

for the liquid-filled pump on both sides of the frame. That liquid is used to adjust the lens to correct the patient's eyesight.

The process begins when the patient reads an eye chart to determine if they have normal or poor vision. Once it is determined a person needs glasses to help improve their vision, an adaptive eyewear is placed over their eyes and the valve on one of the pumps is loosened.

The liquid then seeps into the lens of the glasses until the patient can see clearly through that eye. The individual then turns off the valve and the same steps are repeated for the other lens.

Once the patient has the clearest possible vision in both eyes, the optometrist or technician sets the glasses and removes the valves from the frame -- leaving a normal pair of eyeglasses.

"The one bad thing is that they

are a little on the heavy side," Major McCluer said, but that does not seem to matter to the patients.

"Eyeglasses are very difficult to buy here," said Boahene

"Anthony" Ampem, a Ghanaian military eye technician, "but by helping them make their own prescription, we are making them very happy. They smile and say 'I can see' so we know they're happy."

Med Flag 2006 is a 14-day exercise involving USAFE staging medical operations in the countries of Benin, Senegal, Nigeria and Ghana.

Two teams are in Ghana conducting medical outreach, one in Accra and another in Tamale. The Tamale mission is a Medical Civil Assistance Program conducted at two regional health clinics there. One is located at Bipeila, in the heart of Tamale and the other is in the remote village of Tampiong.

Viewpoints & Commentaries



The following is a message from Gen. Tom Hobbins, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman,

This summer, our travels have taken us across the command, and from Lajes to Al Udeid, the outstanding Airmen of USAFE remain on the leading edge of our most critical global challenge, the War on Terrorism. As we visited the bases and watched you in action, we were continually reminded that every single Airman is essential to mission success. Safety mishaps that occur downrange or at home impede the accomplishment of our objectives and cause heartache and pain for our families, friends, co-workers ...our command.

From the most senior commander to the newest Airman, safety is everyone's responsibility. It doesn't matter if we are performing base operating support or engaging in activities outside the

wire, we must continue our full-court press on and off duty to prevent accidents caused by unnecessary risks, alcohol, or poor training. We have the tools to prevent mishaps and need to apply them in everything we do. Operational Risk Management provides the guidance to assess each situation we encounter and make sound decisions based on associated levels of risk. Nothing, however, replaces good common sense and judgment. If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't and you should correct it.

To date, the Air Force has had 44 fatal accidents in 2006. While that has decreased from 54 during the same period in 2005, it still means that 45 Airmen lost their lives -- six of these Airmen were from USAFE.

Some of the contributing factors that led to these tragic accidents:

- Driver distractions (cell phone, radio, GPS)
- Not using the proper emergency equipment (reflective vest/belt, signs, flashers)
- Excessive speeds
- Engaging in activities without properly assessing the risk

Supervisors must be engaged at all levels. Know your Airmen's off-duty plans. Help them understand the associated risks, consequences, and impact that every safety mishap has on both the mission and their families.

The 101 Critical Days of Summer may be over, but our focus on safety must not fade with the warm weather. As a nation at war, we can't afford to cut corners -- the stakes are just too high. Together, we must protect our most vital resource, our Airmen, and continue our commitment to "Ensuring Freedom's Future."

Airmen these days ... SNCO remembers 'what it was like,' sees how it is now

By Master Sgt. Cheryl L. Toner
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, SOUTH KOREA (AFPN) -- It's always funny to me when people say, "Airmen these days! They just aren't like the Airmen were when I came in the military."

This, of course, is always said with disdain. Ironically, when crusty old master sergeants say that, well, they're right. When I came in the Air Force in the mid-80s, there were still people on active duty who had been drafted.

And the old, "Yeah, the judge said the military or jail," also was not uncommon. So, yes, the Airmen in today's Air Force are different ... and that's not a bad thing. What's different is our philosophy on training and education. That's a good thing.

Back then, feedback wasn't formal upgrade training. It was something your supervisor did to you, not for you. Feedback wasn't a process, it was punishment. I remember my first assignment -- our office spent a few months working half-days on Saturdays.

From a two-striper's perspective -- and one who never had a "sit down" with her supervisor to discuss expectations -- well, that was just punishment. We Airmen had no idea why we were working on Saturdays. We were just told, "Improve your areas." So, I broke out the all-purpose cleaner and started cleaning my desk.

Another feedback session at the same assignment was held after an aircraft accident.

One of our base's B-52 Stratofortresses crashed shortly after take-off. Thankfully, everyone survived the accident ... well, everyone on the aircraft. Meanwhile, back at the office, the captain went AWOL and the technical sergeant couldn't be found ... for days. That left a second lieutenant and five Airmen to deal with the news media.

Our feedback? We were called into the wing commander's office and, while standing at attention, the only thing we were told was, "The next one of you who **** up is out of here! Now leave."

This always will be burned in my brain. According to Air Force pamphlet 36-2241, "An important milestone in any subordinate's development process is to experience a significant challenge early in his or her career."

Well, at that time, I was the 18-year-old base newspaper editor with less than a year on active duty and virtually no experience.

Surely, I thought, I was next.

As supervisors, it is our job to foster growth. As Airmen, it is our job to help our supervisors do their jobs. Every Airman is responsible for some part of the process. It's not only our responsibility, but also makes sense.

As former Army Chief of Staff Gen. H. Norman Schwartzkopf said, "People want to know what is expected of them. No one

goes to work and says, 'I am going to do a lousy job today.' People work to succeed, and they need to know how you measure that success."

Now, back to my Saturdays and the aircraft crash: I really didn't want to do a lousy job. Yet, as feedback went those days, if my supervisor wasn't yelling at me, then I must have done OK.

We all know that's a lousy way to provide feedback. It's also a recipe for failure.

Everyone, from the lowest ranking Airman to the person running the show, is responsible for his or her part in providing feedback.

If your supervisor isn't providing it, it's your job to ask for it. If the people who work for you aren't actively listening when you provide feedback, don't say another word until they break out a notepad and take notes.

Ultimately you have control over your career and your personal and professional growth. You don't get a degree by accident; surely you won't be a better Airman by accident. The same applies to your Airmen.

And anyone who asks how "Airmen these days" got into the military should remember that he or she, too, came into the Air Force young, inexperienced and bright-eyed. The question should be: "What are you doing to make it better?"

"Ultimately you have control over your career and your personal and professional growth. You don't get a degree by accident."

-- Master Sgt. Cheryl Toner
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Culture Corner

The 52nd Fighter Wing celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with the following event:

A Latin Fiesta taking place Sept. 30 in Club Eifel features a Hispanic dance elimination competition. The grand prize is \$100. There will be food, dancing and a band. Tickets cost \$10. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Rosemarie Goodwin at 452-6303.

Few contributed more to the World War II effort than Lt. Gen. Elwood R. "Pete" Quesada, the son of a Spanish businessman and an Irish-American mother. Born in Washington April 13, 1904, General Quesada entered the Army Air Corps as a flying cadet in September 1924. After graduating, he was assigned as an engineering officer at Bolling Field in Washington.

In June 1928, General Quesada became the flying aide for chief of the Air Corps Maj. Gen. James E. Fechet. While serving as General Fechet's aide, General Quesada participated in the endurance flight of the "Question Mark," where he flew a Fokker tri-motor continuously for nearly seven days, flying round trips between San Diego and Los Angeles and covering 11,000 miles.



Lt. Gen. Elwood R. "Pete" Quesada



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Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office staff. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.



Col. Darryl Roberson

Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a way to get answers to questions you still have after using your chain of command.

Direct Lines of general interest will be published in the Eifel Times and may be edited or paraphrased for brevity or clarity. Submit your Direct Line via:

- DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil
 - Mailed to 52nd FW/PA, Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE 09126
 - To PA in building 23.
 - Concerns may also be sent via fax to 452-5254.
- Anonymous inputs are accepted. To receive a personal response you must include your name and phone number. Call the Eifel Times at 452-5244 for more information.

Sortie Scoreboard

Aircraft	Goal	Flown	Delta
22FS	305	195	-24
23FS	87	34	-38
81FS	229	192	+3

*Delta is contract vs. sorties flown to date.

Through Sept. 19

Courtesy of the 52nd Operations Support Squadron Plans and Scheduling Section

Editor's Note: Submit "Community" advertisements 10 days before the desired publication date to publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil. Call the 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office Internal Information Section at 452-5244 for more information.

Bowling fundraiser

A fabrication flight fundraiser takes place Sept. 29 from 1-4 p.m. at the Eifel Lanes Bowling Center. Five-person teams must sign up no later than Tuesday. The cost is \$10 per person, which includes three games and shoes. For details, call Master Sgt. Boyd Middlebrook at 452-6047.

BHS news

The Bitburg High School students, grades 9-12, can attend College Night Oct. 19 at Ramstein Air Base High School. College representatives and admission officers from dozens of public and private colleges and universities will be available for questions and answers. A bus departs BHS at 4 p.m. and returns around 10:30 p.m. There is room for 50 students and it is a first come, first serve basis. For details, call Jennifer Heinen at 452-9337.

Community center events

The events below are held at the Bitburg Annex Community Center, building 2012 and are free to attend. For details, call Helen Reeves at 452-9555.

- ♦ Toy swap -- bring in toys your child no longer plays with and trade with other families Monday at 10:30 a.m.; and
- ♦ Tea party -- parents and children are invited to an old fashioned tea party Sept. 29 at 10:30 a.m. There will be dress up clothes and tea sets with lemonade and cookies.

Clothing drive

Combat comfort group is sponsoring a clothing drive for Iraqi people near Kirkuk Air Base. They are requesting adult and children plain undershirts (any color, just plain); small bath hand towels; hygiene items for men, women and children (travel sizes work best); plain socks for children and adults; underwear for children (any age); and travel first-aid kits. For safety purposes, all donated items must have no logos. All clothing items (except the underwear) can be new or used, and drop boxes are available at the Spangdahlem AB B-Xtra. For details, call Airman 1st Class Stephen Perakes at 452-6805.

Volunteer of the quarter

Applications for Airman & Family Readiness Center volunteer of the quarter awards are due Thursday at noon. Package content is limited to accomplishments during the period of July 1 to Sept. 30. For details, call the A&FRC 452-6422.



Photos by 1st Lt. Fernando Defillo

Spanish dancers dancing El Flamenco at the Brick House Sept. 15 during family fun night. People from across the wing participated in food tasting and viewed dances from various Hispanic nations.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Family fun night showcases food, games for all ages



Children take turns hitting a piñata with a stick at family fun night.

Library news

- ♦ Start a book on its travels or see where it has been. The Spangdahlem AB library offers a program called "Deployed Books: Read and Release." Items are mostly paperbacks for Sabers to take and then leave anywhere in the world. Stop by the library or visit www.usafe-libraries.org for details.
- ♦ Children's story hour at the Spangdahlem AB library is Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call Raquel Santos at 452-6203 or 452-9055.

Fall Bazaar

The Spangdahlem Officers and Civilians Spouses Club seeks volunteers to assist with the 2006 Fall Bazaar. Volunteers receive an opportunity to shop early and receive child-care reimbursement. For more information, e-mail Iwanttovolunteer@hotmail.com.

Mothers of Preschoolers

The MOPS group seeks mothers of children ages 5 and under to join them. The group which meets twice a month offers the opportunity to connect with other mothers. The next meeting takes place Monday from 9-11:30 a.m. in building 139. In addition, MOPS needs volunteers to run children's art projects, conduct library visits and teach mini bible lessons during meetings from 8:45-11:30 a.m. For more information, call 452-6711.

Virtual training for spouses

The Airman and Family Readiness Center offers MSVA training for spouses interested

in a portable career Oct. 10-12. Training focuses on the realities of entrepreneurship as well as launching and marketing a business. Participations must apply and be accepted into the program. For more information, call 452-6422.

Talent show

The youth center invites families to perform in a talent show Oct. 14 at 2 p.m. Sign up for the show by Sept. 30 at the Bitburg Annex Teen Center and the Spangdahlem Youth Programs Building. For more information, call 452-9206.

Give Parents a Break

Give Parents a Break is a program, compliments of the Air Force Aid Society, designed to provide free weekend child care on select days for stressful times. The next available opening is Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Spangdahlem AB child development center. All reservations and required paperwork must be received by noon on the Thursday prior to the weekend. For reservation guidelines, call the Airman & Family Readiness Center at 452-6422.

Air Force Ball

This year's Air Force Ball theme is "Honoring Service and Sacrifice," and takes place at Club Eifel Oct. 28 with a social hour beginning at 6 p.m. Mr. Leo Thorsness, former Vietnam POW and Medal of Honor winner, is guest speaker. Tickets go on sale in early October.



Sunday Brunch

Sunday, September 24

Seatings: 11am - 1pm & 1:30pm - 3:30pm
\$15.95 members, \$17.95 non-members

Buffet includes:

Crab legs • peel n' eat shrimp • warm pancakes • buttermilk biscuits • southern grits
savory grilled home fries • sausage • crispy bacon • scrambled eggs • golden honey fried chicken • steamed buttery vegetables • roasted new potatoes • rice pilaf • full salad bar
omelet bar • Belgian waffles with toppings galore • carved honey cured ham • steamship round of beef • assorted breads and cheeses
assorted mouth-watering desserts
champagne

Walk-ins taken on a space available basis, reservations required to ensure seating
Call DSN 452-4633



Der Markt

Free classifieds policy and submission deadlines

Der Markt is for the personal resale of items by military and civilian employees and their families. Items such as advertisements for rental property won't be published due to funded paper restraints. Ads should be 35 words or less and customers are limited to no more than two ads per week. Ads must be typed or printed legibly and turned into the public affairs office, building 23, at least 10 days before the desired date of publication. Ads can also be e-mailed to publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil or sent via fax to 452-5254. Having ads in by deadline does not guarantee publication. Ads for services generating regular income will not be published. The ads must include the sponsor's name and telephone number. Ads not meeting these requirements, including those exceeding the designated word limits, will not be printed. The *Eifel Times* staff reserves the right to edit ads.

Movies

The following movie listings are for today through Sept. 28. Times and movies are subject to change. For more information, call 06565-61-9441 or 452-9441. For movie synopses, visit www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp.

Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

◆ *Monster House* (PG, 7 p.m.)

Although no adults will believe them, three children realize a neighbor's house is really a monster. They must find a way to stop the house and save the neighborhood.

◆ *My Super Ex-Girlfriend* (PG-13, 9:30 p.m.)

Everyone's had a painful parting of the ways with a romantic partner. We pick up the pieces and move on. But for one New York guy, it's not going to be so easy. When he breaks up with his girlfriend, he discovers his ex is actually the reluctant superhero, G-Girl.



Saturday

◆ *My Super Ex-Girlfriend* (7 p.m.)

◆ *Clerks II* (R, 9:30 p.m.)

Ten years ago best friends Dante Hicks and Randal Graves were New Jersey mini-mall clerks still slacking off together in their early 20s. Now working in the fast-food universe, they have managed to maintain, and even hone, their in-your-face attitudes, agile skill with vulgarities and unbridled love of screwing the customers.

Sunday

◆ *Monster House* (4 p.m.)

◆ *Snakes on a Plane* (R, 7 p.m.)

A ruthless assassin unleashes a crate full of lethal snakes aboard a packed passenger jet over the Pacific Ocean in order to eliminate a witness in protective custody. The rookie pilot and frightened passengers must band together to survive.

Monday

◆ *Snakes on a Plane* (7 p.m.)

Tuesday

◆ *Clerks II* (7 p.m.)

Wednesday and Thursday closed

Bitburg Castle

Today

◆ *You, Me and Dupree* (PG-13, 7 p.m.)

Carl and Molly Peterson are just starting their new life together—complete with a cute house, boring neighbors, stable jobs and the routines of newlywed existence. There's just one unfortunate hitch in their perfectly constructed new world. And his name's Dupree.

◆ *Little Man* (PG-13, 9:30 p.m.)

Darryl Edwards is so eager to become a father that he mistakes a short, baby-faced thief on the lam for an abandoned toddler. He and his wife take the "baby" into their home while the thief's partner tries to help him recover a stolen diamond.

Saturday

◆ *Little Man* (7 p.m.)

◆ *World Trade Center* (PG-13, 9:30 p.m.)

Refusing to bow down to terrorism, rescuers and family of the victims press forward. Their mission of rescue and recovery is driven by the faith that under each piece of rubble, a co-worker, a friend or a family member may be found. This is the true story of John McLoughlin and William Jimeno, the last two survivors extracted from Ground Zero and the rescuers who never gave up.

Sunday

◆ *World Trade Center* (4 p.m.)

◆ *You, Me and Dupree* (7 p.m.)

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

◆ *Monster House* (7 p.m.)

Thursday

◆ *My Super Ex-Girlfriend* (7 p.m.)

Break out the lederhosen and beer steins!

World famous Bavarian party offers food, music, memories

Story and photos by Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

The most famous folk festival in the world, the Munich Oktober Festival is happening now.

The event on the Theresienwiese draws thousands of visitors and features an immense consumption of beer and white sausage.

Germany's annual Oktoberfests owe their heritage to an extravagant Bavarian wedding in 1810, which was open to the public and featured a horse race. The following year the festival was repeated and expanded to include agricultural exhibits to highlight Bavarian agriculture's impetus for development and improvement. Munich maintains its tradition with the 173rd festival now through Oct. 3.

At the event, visitors can party in 14 various tents, the most popular one is the Hofbraeu-Festzelt tent that can seat 6,898 people inside, 3,022 outside and typically draws an international crowd. Events open at noon when band leaders encourage visitors to lock arms and sway back and forth to Bavarian tunes. Bavarian "Schmankerl" or traditional foods are most reasonably priced in the Hofbraeu-Festzelt tent, according to event organizers.

Another popular tent to stop in is the Hippodrom. This is where prominent people and pop stars often party. The Hippodrom tent is also known for its unique champagne bar, which is a well-known meeting point for single people.



German visitors dressed in traditional Bavarian outfits toast to good company, drink and food at the Munich Oktoberfest.

The tent can hold up to 3,200 people inside and 1,000 people outside.

Every tent has its own unique flair, but they all offer large-scale entertainment. Musicians, dressed in traditional lederhosen keep the party going. Vendors walk through the tents, selling huge salt pretzels, a typical Bavarian treat. At peak times, such as Saturday or Sunday evenings, waiters and waitresses have hard times keeping up with the large orders and food servings, sometimes carrying up to a dozen beer mugs in their hands at one time.

Entertainment and fun usually continues until about 11 p.m.

The tents are surrounded by rides from nostalgic children's carousels to Ferris wheels or roller coasters. Games and food booths are just as popular as



Live music fills the 14 various beer tents throughout the day.

the sweets and candy stands. Lebkuchen cookie hearts are among the popular sweet treats and can be found in all sizes.

It takes about six hours to drive to Munich and people are encouraged make hotel reservations in advance. It's advisable to stay in a hotel on the outskirts of the city and take public transportation to the festival.

The hills are alive with the sound of ... breathtaking scenery?

Bavarian Alps offer outdoor activities, historical, sight-seeing tours



Snow-capped mountains in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, showcase the picturesque landscape in October 2004.

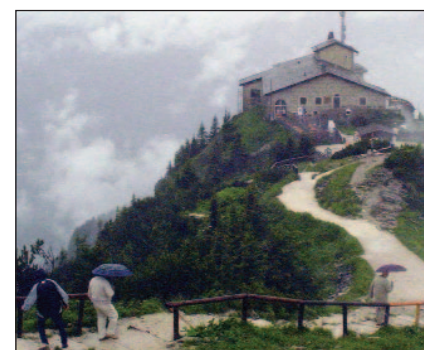


Photo by 1st. Lt. Shannon Collins

Tourists flock to the "Eagle's Nest," which was built as a 50th birthday present to Adolf Hitler from the Nazi Party. It is nestled 6,017 feet among the Bavarian Alps.



Photo by 1st. Lt. Shannon Collins

Berchtesgaden, the jewel of the Bavarian Alps, is a commonly visited town in southern Germany.

Photo by Gary Sakura

Sports Briefs

Air Force Ball Bowl-a-Thon

The First Four Council sponsors a Bowl-a-Thon Sept. 29 at 5 p.m. in Eifel Lanes Bowling Center. Cost is \$10 per person which includes shoe rental and three games. Proceeds benefit the Air Force Ball. For more information, call Senior Airman Bryan Bittner at 452-6185.

Body building championship

The 2006 U.S. Forces in Europe Body Building Championship and Fitness Expo is Oct. 14-15 at Karmstadt in the Camrai-Fritsch Kaserne Fitness Center. Completion categories include strong man, bodybuilding and figure.

Bowling center

- ♦ A No Tap Tournament takes place Oct. 3. Sign up begins at 5 p.m. and the tournament starts at 6 p.m. In this tournament men must knock down nine pins to receive a strick and women must knock down eight. A Crazy Eights completion follows while the results of the tournament are tallied. Participants must be 18 or older, cost is \$15 per game.
- ♦ Deployed family member bowling offers family members with deployed spouses and a Combat Care button the opportunity to bowl for \$1 per game.
- ♦ Ladies bowl for .50 cents per game Thursdays from 6 p.m. to close.
- ♦ Family Day Bowling offers families a way to have fun and save money Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. Families receive free rentals, adults bowl for \$1.75 a game and children bowl for \$1.50 per game.

Fitness assessments

People interested in having a free fitness assessment performed should call the fitness center to schedule an appointment. Assessments are broken down into six phases: blood pressure, body composition, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and cardiovascular fitness check. The results of the test determine a person's strengths and weaknesses. For more information, call Juerger Stockemer at 452-6496.

Men's basketball

Intramural basketball and over 30 basketball letters of intent are due are Oct. 25. The season starts in November. For more information, call 452-3365.

Mom-n-Tots walkathon

A Mom-n-Tots walkathon takes place Sept. 29 at 11:30 a.m. This walk race is designed for mothers and their children. Participants walk around the track and receive prizes for each lap they complete. Sign up at the Spangdahlem Fitness Center.

Partner Up

Interested in playing tennis or racquetball but lack a partner? The Skelton Memorial Fitness Center Partner Up program matches players who need a partner. Call the fitness center and leave a name, a tennis or racquetball preference, contact number and estimated skill level. Once a match has been found players will be contacted. For more information, call Mark Gearin at 452-6634.

Ice skating lesson

The Bitburg-American Skating School begins ice skating lessons in October for Team Eifel children, ages 6-11. Lessons are Mondays from 6-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10-11 a.m., and go through March. Lessons for adults takes place Mondays. For more information, e-mail Mia Checkley at bitburgskatingschool@hotmail.com.



Photo by Ed Marshall

James Armstrong, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, takes a moment to line up his shot at a 2006 Intramural Golf season match Sept. 14 at the Eifel Mountain Golf Course.

Sabers swing toward championships

Golfers prepare to face off during tournament playoffs

By Ed Marshall

52nd Services Squadron and
Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

The 2006 Intramural Golf season is coming to a close but not before one last round of action as the CES Augusta Champs face off against the MOS Pebble Beach Champs.

At the beginning of the season nine teams hit the course; now only two teams are left standing.

In a game where one man normally faces off against all of his competitors, intramural golf here is an event where teamwork is the key to success.

"I really think that our success stems from the teamwork we have on the course," said Michael Checkley, Team MOS. He said their two man teams work well, and overall, they had teams that are very good top to bottom.

"I think our teams did well by continuously applying pressure to the other teams over the year. We rarely had holes where we were totally out of it," Mr. Checkley said. "Some of us do not bang the ball out on the fairway more than 280 yards, but we keep the ball in play and always seem to have a chance at par. If you do that all the time, I really think it wears the other team down over the course of 18 holes."

Christopher Barti, Team MOS agrees with Mr. Checkley.

"I think the key to making the finals was great teamwork," he said. "Throughout the year we have played well as a team, if one of us hit a bad shot the other stepped up to hit a good shot. Without teamwork we would have never made it this far."

In addition to balancing out one another's limitations, the Spangdahlem intramural golf teams provided players the opportunity to coach one another through those weaknesses.

"Every playing partner I have in this format has been very helpful in all areas of the game," Mr. Checkley said. "Some might be more excitable than others, but overall we work well as a team. Team golf and your success rely on how the partners communicate and interact."



Photo by Ed Marshall

Boyd Middlebrook, 52nd EMS, takes his shot during the Sept. 14 match.

Over the past three years, Team MOS has dominated intramural golf here. Mr. Barti attributes the team's success to chemistry.

"It is hard to find a playing partner with the same perspective on the game," Mr. Barti said. "Throughout the season the team has been very supportive of each other. It is hard to play your best week in and week out but our team has been there for each other."

This season has been filled with many moments the players are not likely to forget for some time, and Mr. Checkley said there were many moments that stuck out to him, but there was one above the rest.

"It was the second round playoff match with Team EMS. Rob Tenney and I lost the front two down to EMS -- who were playing well. They won the eighth and ninth hole to win the front. We were getting outplayed," he said. "We managed to regroup and win the tenth."

The memorable portion of the match he recalls was enduring a torrential downpour and playing through it to grab a two up lead.

"Rob and I managed to hang on to win the back two up and split the points. It was the toughest match I have had in intramurals since I have been on Team MOS," he added.

Overall, both players agreed that in addition to intramural golf providing them friendly competition, it is also a good avenue for players at every level to enhance their skills.

"Come out and play," Mr. Barti said. "It is a great environment to work on your golf game, enjoy the camaraderie and meet some great people from the base."

Mr. Checkley said, "Do not give up no matter the score. I know it sounds cliché, but it's true. If you're playing the two person scramble, and you can come back on the second nine, then you'll take the majority of the points. Also, golf is more than a physical game, the mental approach to golf is overlooked. Having a sound mental approach in the two person scramble is very important."

To catch the action of the final game, go to the Eifel Mountain Golf Course Tuesday at noon.

Scoreboard

The following is a list of the latest scores for Intramural Flag Football as of Sept. 20.

Team	W	Team	L
CES	25	MOS	15
LRS	13	OSS	Forfeit
702	31	EMS	7
702	20	MDG	6